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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/082,265	02/26/2002	Kenneth J. Krauss	87356.2180	6422

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EXAMINER

RIDLEY, RICHARD

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3651

DATE MAILED: 04/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/082,265

Applicant(s)

KRAUSS ET AL.

Examiner

Richard Ridley

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sackett '669 in of Huth '684. Sackett discloses all of the claim limitations in a similar feeding device, the device comprising a(n):

- Conveyor belt (2)
- Material inlet (1)
- Movable plate (fig. 1) having a hinged end and a free end pivotally mounted, said movable plate is located above at least a second portion of the belt proximate to the said second end
- Hinge (fig. 1)
- Fixed plate (fig. 1)
- Power actuator or means for urging (4)

Sackett does not disclose the material inlet having a width in the forward conveying direction that is at least half the length of the top path length.

In a weighing device similar to Sackett, Huth '684 teaches an arrangement where the material inlet has a width in the forward conveying direction that is at least half the length of the top path length.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have employed either a shorter belt such that the material inlet would have a width in the forward conveying direction that is at least half the length of the top path length, or a wider material inlet such that the material inlet would have a width in the forward conveying direction that is at least half the length of the top path length since such an arrangement would have been merely a matter of design choice, such an arrangement having been arrived at and taught by Huth, and since the applicant has not disclosed that such an arrangement solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with such an arrangement as shown by Huth.

3. Claim 4, 5, 13, 14, 15, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sackett '669 in view of Huth '684 and further in view of Lovette '261.

Sackett does not disclose the use of a power actuator that is an air cylinder.

Lovette teaches the use of a power actuator (32) that is an air cylinder for the purpose of providing for a means to control the degree of opening and closing of a gate at the input of a conveyor belt (C3/L40-59).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have employed the use of a power actuator that is an air cylinder, as taught by Lovette, in the device of Sackett for the purpose of providing for a means to control the degree of opening and closing of a gate at the input of a conveyor belt.

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4. Claim 9, 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sackett '669 in view of Huth '684 and further in view of Clancy '852.

Sackett does not disclose the use of a pair of side skirts.

Clancy '852 teaches the use of a pair of side skirts for the purpose of providing for a means to guide the flow of material onto the belt and prevent spillage at the belt sides.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have employed the use of a pair of side skirts, as taught by Clancy, in the device of Sackett for the purpose of providing for a means to guide the flow of material onto the belt and prevent spillage at the belt sides.

5. Claim 10, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sackett '669 in view of Huth '684 and further in view of Clancy '852 and further in view of Stock '518.

Sackett does not disclose the use of a rear end skirt.

Stock '518 teaches the use of a rear end skirt for the purpose of providing for a means to control the flow of material onto the belt and prevent spillage at the rear backside of the belt.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have employed the a rear end skirt, as taught by Stock, in the device of Sackett for the purpose of providing for a means to guide the flow of material onto the belt and prevent spillage at the backside of the belt.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Sackett does not teach a movable plate having a hinged end and a free end and located above at least a second portion of the conveyor belt proximate to said second end.

In response the examiner notes that Sackett discloses a movable plate having a hinged end and a free end and located above at least a second portion of the conveyor belt proximate to said second end as shown in fig. 1 of Sackett.

Conclusion

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

2. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

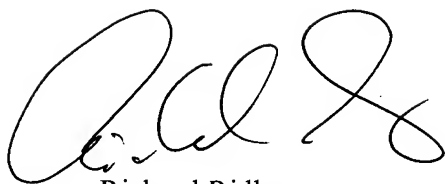
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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Ridley whose telephone number is (571) 272-6917. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on (571) 272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Ridley', with a large, stylized initial 'R' and a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Richard Ridley
7 April 2005

Richard Ridley
Primary Examiner
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